

Message Text

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TO USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

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EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM

SUBJECT: COCOM LIST REVIEW: IL 1555, IMAGE INTENSIFIERS
AND CONVERTERS

REF: OECD PARIS 11010

1. USDEL SHOULD MAINTAIN POSITION FOR AN BUT WE WOULD
BE PREPARED TO HAVE LIMITED SHIPMENTS GO UP TO LESS THAN
20 UNITS.

2. US WOULD BE CONCERNED AT LARGE QUANTITIES THESE
DEVICES BEING FREED FROM CONTROL. ALTHOUGH NETHERLANDS
MAY BE CORRECT THAT THESE GOGGLES HAVE RANGE OF LESS THAN
10 METERS THEY CAN READILY BE CONVERTED INTO LONGER
RANGE BY SUBSTITUTION OF NEW OBJECTIVE LENS, A SIMPLE
OPERATION. THIS WOULD ALSO BE ECONOMICAL SINCE PRINCIPAL
VALUE OF THE GOGGLES IS IN THE TUBE. TUBE IS ALSO
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MOST IMPORTANT PART OF DEVICE AND COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

COULD ACQUIRE TUBES THROUGH PURCHASING GOGGLES.

3. THERE IS NO CLEAR TECHNOLOGICAL DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN THE MANUFACTURE OF THE TYPE OF DEVICES THE DUTCH HAVE IN MIND AND THOSE USED BY THE MILITARY. THE END-USE PATTERN OF THE TYPE OF DEVICE IS 90 TO 95 PERCENT MILITARY IN THE US. THE DEVICES ENABLE A COMBAT SOLDIER TO OPERATE AT NIGHT WITH NEAR DAYLIGHT EFFICIENCY.

4. US PARTICULARLY CONCERNED AT THE TECHNOLOGY FOR THESE DEVICES. MILITARY NIGHT VISION EQUIPMENT WHICH IS BASED ON THE TECHNOLOGY USED IN MAKING THE DEVICE THE DUTCH WISH TO FREE IS PART OF THE NATO INVENTORY. MILITARY INFRARED AND IMAGE INTENSIFIER EQUIPMENT ARE SUBJECT TO IML-15 CONTROLS.

5. WE DO NOT VIEW AE TREATMENT AND LIMITATION OF SHIPMENTS AS UNDUE BURDEN FOR COCOM COUNTRIES. IN PERIOD FROM 1973 TO PRESENT ONLY 16 EXCEPTION CASES INVOLVING ITEM 1555(A)(1) HAVE BEEN PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE AND ONLY ONE FOR DARKROOM GOGGLE, NETHERLANDS CASE (COCOM DOC (75)2236). LEGITIMATE CIVIL END USES COULD THUS BE EASILY MET THROUGH US PROPOSAL FOR AN WHILE PROTECTING VITAL TECHNOLOGY.

6. IN RESPONSE TO FRENCH, WE RECOGNIZE THAT WE GO BEYOND NETHERLANDS PROPOSAL IN FREEING CERTAIN DEVICES. IN DOING SO WE RECOGNIZE THAT THEY HAVE LEGITIMATE CIVIL USES. OUR INTENT WAS TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE WHILE STILL MAINTAINING A CONTROL ON IMPORTANT TECHNOLOGY.

7. USDEL CORRECT IN REPLYING TO JAPANESE INQUIRY THAT NIGHT VISION VIEWING EQUIPMENT WAS COVERED BY ITEM 1555. HOWEVER, WE ARE UNABLE TO ELABORATE AT THIS TIME BUT WILL DO SO AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. SISCO

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